

\$UPER \$AVINGS

PART THREE



WISDOM WITH WEALTH

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TREASURES IN HEAVEN PHILANTHROPY VS GENEROSITY

The Study Guide: **Bullseye Budgeting** deals with financial management in ranking our spending using money in the present, not in the future. In **Super Savings Part I** we looked at preparing for the future and addressed some of the basic questions about saving money: Why, who, how, and when. In **Super Savings Part II** we considered where we should store our savings—someplace safe and secure. In Super Savings Part III we do an in depth study on where to store our savings, specifically on storing “treasures in heaven” as recommended by the Lord Jesus Christ. He identified a direct connection between “treasures in heaven” and certain types of charitable giving.

Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive,” Acts 20:35. All charitable giving is not the same. Let’s consider two words that describe charitable giving: generosity and philanthropy.

RECAP

Should you save money?

It depends on your future. If you plan to live past today then you should probably save something for your future.

Why should you save money?

Economic conditions are not always the same. There are periods of abundance and times of scarcity. Prudent saving is one of the essentials to financial survival.

When should you save money?

Save whenever you can—whenever you have some excess. Waste not, want not. Spend as little as necessary. The amount you can save changes. Some years are fat and some are thin. Sometimes we can save much and at other times hardly anything.

How should you save money?

There are two tactics: Pre-spending (off the top) and smart spending (from the bottom). The first has two strategies: save a fixed percentage or a fixed amount. The second strategy is really a decision to be thrifty. When spending your money you are trying to get the the best buy. You want the best “bang for the buck.”













Where should you store your money?

God doesn’t need your money. He wants you to store it wisely for your own future benefit.

Refer back to Super Savings Part I and Super Savings Part II for a refresher.

COMPARING THE TWO

Surprisingly, neither word is common in the Bible. The word “philanthropy” is especially conspicuous by its absence since it is of Greek origin and the New Testament was written entirely in Greek. The word “generous” appears only once in the most literal modern English translation, NASB. In James 1:5 it describes how God gives. “God gives to all men, generously, and without reproach.”

 <h2>PHILANTHROPY</h2>	VS	 <h2>GENEROSITY</h2>
<p>It means “friend of humanity.” It’s a compound Greek word: “philo”—loving as a friend and “anthropos”—mankind. It came into our English language near the year 1600 through the Latin word “philanthropia.”</p>	<p>Etymology (Word Origin)</p>	<p>It comes from the Latin “generosus,” which like the English word, generations, stems from the word “genus” meaning “kin” or “clan.” During the 17th century the meaning of the word gradually changed from referring to nobles (who could afford significant gifts) to anyone—regardless of their pedigree—who were willing to share with those in need.</p>
<p>Giving done to receive public recognition</p> 	<p>Public Recognition</p>	 <p>Public recognition is not sought</p>
 <p>Tax reduction is a major motivator.</p>	<p>Tax Considerations</p>	<p>Tax reduction is irrelevant</p> 
<p>Gift size is important since a larger gift attracts more recognition.</p> 	<p>Size of Gift</p>	 <p>Gift size is not important. A \$10 gift may be a significant for one, while for another it is meaningless.</p>
 <p>Fund raising events: Gala style, silent auctions, dinner parties, and social media crowd funding tactics commonly used.</p>	<p>Promotion</p>	<p>Usually personal, private, and low-key decision making, often without social pressure or persuasion.</p> 
<p>The giver will minimize inconvenience and pain.</p> 	<p>Pain of Sacrifice</p>	 <p>The giver will experience inconvenience and perhaps even pain.</p>

MAJOR DIFFERENCES

I BELIEVE THERE ARE THREE MAJOR DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THESE TWO TYPES OF CHARITABLE GIVING: THE TARGET GROUP, THE MOTIVE OF THE GIVER, AND THE TIME FRAME OF BOTH THE GIFT AND THE CONSEQUENCE.

THE TARGET GROUP

Generosity directs gifts to one of God's five favourite charities whereas philanthropy picks other causes. To learn more about God's five favourite charities study the question: **Who says money can't buy happiness?**


THE MOTIVE OF THE GIVER

Generosity is faith-based rather than "sight" based. It expresses thankfulness and joy from first having received. The woman who washed Jesus' feet with very expensive perfume (worth about \$30,000) had just had her brother raised from the dead. No amount of money could express her gratitude for what Jesus did. Jesus raised her brother Lazarus from the dead! She was utterly

overjoyed. She wasted her wealth on Jesus. Generous givers see themselves as having received much from God. They are willing to give much.

Generosity is based on confidence of future rewards (Hebrews 11:6 and Luke 6:38). Author Brian Dodd, who specializes in leadership principles, has studied these two words and concluded the following: "Philanthropy says you become a philanthropist though your net worth, but biblical generosity says you grow through your faith." Generosity is faith-based; philanthropy is not. In a sense, generosity is like a gamble—a holy gamble. The giver is betting that, by giving secretly to one of God's five favourite charities, he will come out a winner. The giver's faith-based strategy is to win by giving. Even

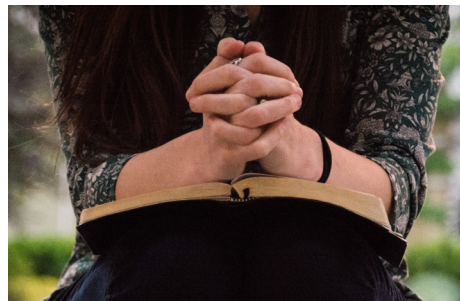
if no other human being sees the act of giving, God sees it. God promises that "the generous man will be prosperous."

 **Brian Dodd: Money and the difference between philanthropy and generosity.**

Generosity shows kindness to the receiver. Generosity is based on a motive of love—"golden rule" that Jesus gave us, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," Matthew 7:12.

TIME FRAME

Generous sets no time limit for a payback, but the philanthropic person wants to see payback soon.



When Jesus describes generosity, he tells us to think super long-term, past death itself. We read Jesus' financial instruction in Luke 14:12-14: "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends, or your brothers, or your relatives, or rich neighbors, otherwise they may also invite you in return and that will be your repayment. But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, since they do not

have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

Amazing! Most of our society saves for a retirement account, but an ultra-long-term perspective focusses on a resurrection account. What else do we know from this passage on charitable giving?

1. Wise charitable giving is always rewarded by God, sooner or later.
2. There will be a physical resurrection. The text states that

those who are not paid back in full in this life will be paid back in full at the resurrection. The resurrection of the righteous will be a good time—for the righteous.

3. The way we use our resources now will affect us when we are resurrected. This matches the teaching of Proverbs 19:17, "He who gives to the poor lends to the LORD and He will repay him for his good deed."

GIVE WELL

In summary, those with a typical timeframe see this life of about 80 years as all that matters. For them it makes more sense to be philanthropic rather than generous. Those with an eternal perspective are giving for different reasons, and are saving in their resurrection account. For more about the resurrection account, see the next study guide.



Why and how should you evaluate charities?

